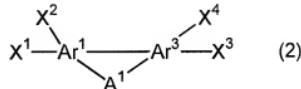
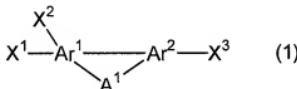


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (withdrawn): An aromatic compound of the following formula (1) or formula (2):

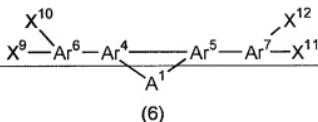
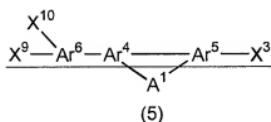


[wherein, Ar^1 and Ar^3 each independently represent a tetra-valent aromatic hydrocarbon group or a tetra-valent heterocyclic group. Ar^2 represents a tri-valent aromatic hydrocarbon group or a tri-valent heterocyclic group, Ar^1 , Ar^2 and Ar^3 may have a substituent, and when Ar^1 and Ar^2 have a substituent, these may be connected to form a ring and when Ar^1 and Ar^3 have a substituent, these may be connected to form a ring. A^1 represents $-\text{Z}^1-$, $-\text{Z}^2-\text{Z}^3-$ or $-\text{Z}^4=\text{Z}^5-$, Z^1 , Z^2 and Z^3 each independently represent O, S, C(=O), S(=O), SO₂, C(R¹)(R²), Si(R³)(R⁴), N(R⁵), B(R⁶), P(R⁷) or P(=O)(R⁸), and Z^4 and Z^5 each independently represent N, B, P, C(R⁹) or Si(R¹⁰) (wherein, R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹ and R¹⁰ each independently represent a hydrogen atom, halogen atom, alkyl group, alkoxy group, alkylthio group, aryl group, aryloxy group, arylthio group, arylalkyl group, arylalkyloxy group, arylalkylthio group, acyl group, acyloxy group, amide group, acid imide group, imine residue, amino group, substituted amino group, substituted silyl group, substituted silyloxy group, substituted silylthio group, substituted silylaminogroup, mono-valent heterocyclic group, heteroaryloxy group, heteroarylthio group, arylalkenyl group, arylethynyl group, carboxyl group, alkoxy carbonyl group, aryloxy carbonyl group, arylalkyloxycarbonyl group, heteroaryloxycarbonyl group or cyano group. Here, R¹, R²,

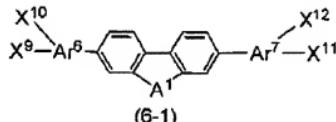
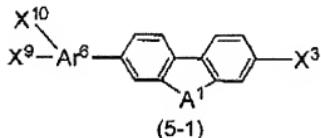
R^3 and R^4 may be mutually connected to form a ring). In formula (1), Ar^2 and A^1 are connected to mutually adjacent atoms on Ar^1 ring and Ar^1 and A^1 are connected to mutually adjacent atoms on Ar^2 ring, and in formula (2), Ar^3 and A^1 are connected to mutually adjacent atoms on Ar^1 ring and Ar^1 and A^1 are connected to mutually adjacent atoms on Ar^3 ring. X^1 , X^2 , X^3 and X^4 each independently represent a halogen atom, alkylsulfonate group, arylsulfonate group, arylalkylsulfonate group, boric ester group group, $-B(OH)_2$, methyl monohalide group, sulfonium methyl group, phosphonium methyl group, phosphonate methyl group, cyanomethyl group, formyl group, vinyl group, hydroxyl group, alkyloxy group, acyloxy group, substituted silyloxy group, amino group or nitro group, and at least one of X^1 , X^2 and X^3 in formula (1) and at least one of X^1 , X^2 , X^3 and X^4 in formula (2) are selected from a halogen atom, alkylsulfonate groups, arylsulfonate group, arylalkylsulfonate group, boric ester group group, $-B(OH)_2$, methyl monohalide group, sulfonium methyl group, phosphonium methyl group, phosphonate methyl group, cyanomethyl group, formyl group and vinyl group.]

2. (withdrawn): The aromatic compound according to Claim 1, wherein all of X^1 , X^2 and X^3 in formula (1) and all of X^1 , X^2 , X^3 and X^4 in formula (2) are selected from a halogen atom, alkylsulfonate group, arylsulfonate group, arylalkylsulfonate group, boric ester group group, $-B(OH)_2$, methyl monohalide group, sulfonium methyl group, phosphonium methyl group, phosphonate methyl group, cyanomethyl group, formyl group and vinyl group.

3. (currently amended): An aromatic compound of the following formula (5) (5-1) or formula (6) (6-1):



[wherein, A^1 and X^3 represent the same meaning as described above, Ar^4 , Ar^5 , Ar^6 and Ar^7 each independently represent a tri-valent aromatic hydrocarbon group or a tri-valent heterocyclic group, Ar^4 , Ar^5 , Ar^6 and Ar^7 may have a substituent, and when Ar^4 and Ar^5 have a substituent, these may be connected to form a ring. X^9 , X^{10} , X^{11} and X^{12} each independently represent a hydrogen atom, alkylsulfonate group, arylsulfonate group, arylalkylsulfonate group, boric ester group group, $-B(OH)_2$, methyl monohalide group, sulfonium methyl group, phosphonium methyl group, phosphonate methyl group, cyanomethyl group, formyl group, vinyl group, hydroxyl group, alkyloxy group, acyloxy group, substituted silyloxy group, amino group or nitro group, and at least one of X^9 , X^{10} and X^3 in formula (5) and at least one of X^9 , X^{10} , X^{11} and X^{12} in formula (6) represent a halogen atom, alkylsulfonate group, arylsulfonate group, arylalkylsulfonate group, boric ester group group, $-B(OH)_2$, methyl monohalide group, sulfonium methyl group, phosphonium methyl group, phosphonate methyl group, cyanomethyl group, formyl group or vinyl group.]



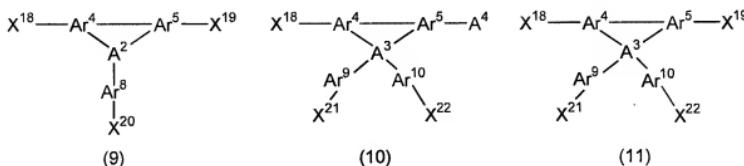
wherein X^3 , X^9 , X^{10} , X^{11} and X^{12} each independently represent a halogen atom, an alkylsulfonate group, an arylsulfonate group, an arylalkylsulfonate group, a boric ester group, $-B(OH)_2$, a methyl monohalide group, a sulfonium methyl group, a phosphonium methyl group, a phosphonate methyl group, a cyanomethyl group, a formyl group, or a vinyl group;

Ar⁶ and Ar⁷ each independently represent a tri-valent aromatic hydrocarbon group or a tri-valent heterocyclic group, Ar⁶ and Ar⁷ may have a substituent; and

A¹ represents O, S, S(=O), SO₂ OR Si(R³)(R⁴), N(R⁵), O-C(=O), O-C(R¹)(R²), N(R⁵)-C(=O), or N=C(R⁹) (wherein R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁹ each independently represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkyloxy group, an alkylthio group, an aryl group, an aryloxy group, an arylthio group, an arylalkyl group, an arylalkyloxy group, an arylalkylthio group, an acyl group, an acyloxy group, an amide group, an acidimide group, an imine residue, an amino group, a substituted amino group, a substituted silyl group, a substituted silyloxy group, a substituted silylthio group, a substituted silylamino group, a mono-valent heterocyclic group, a hetereoaryloxy group, a heteroarylthio group, an arylalkenyl group, an arylethynyl group, a carboxyl group, an alkyloxycarbonyl group, an aryloxycarbonyl group, an arylalkyloxycarbonyl group, a heteroaryloxycarbonyl group or a cyano group. Here, R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ may be mutually connected to form a ring), and substituents may be carried on the benzene ring, and the substituents may be connected mutually to form a ring.

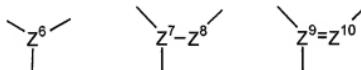
4. (canceled).

5. (withdrawn): An aromatic compound of the following formula (9), (10) or (11):



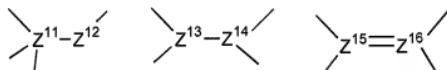
[wherein, Ar⁴ and Ar⁵ represent the same meaning as described above, Ar⁸, Ar⁹ and Ar¹⁰ each independently represent an arylene group or a di-valent aromatic group, Ar⁴, Ar⁵, Ar⁸, Ar⁹ and Ar¹⁰ may have a substituent, and when Ar⁴ and Ar⁵ have a substituent, these may be connected to form a ring, when Ar⁹ and Ar¹⁰ have a substituent, these may be connected to form a ring and when Ar⁹ and Ar¹⁰ have a substituent, these may be connected to form a ring.]

A² represents any of the following formulae:



(wherein, Z⁶ represents B, P or P(=O), Z⁷ represents C(R⁹), Si(R¹⁰), N, B, P or P(=O), Z⁸ represents O, S, C(=O), S(=O), SO₂, C(R¹)(R²), Si(R³)(R⁴), N(R⁵), B(R⁶), P(R⁷) or P(=O)(R⁸), Z⁹ represents C or Si, Z¹⁰ represents N, B, P, C(R⁹) or Si(R¹⁰), and R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹ and R¹⁰ represent the same meaning as described above),

A³ represents any of the following formulae:



(wherein, Z¹¹ represents C or Si, Z¹² represents O, S, C(=O), S(=O), SO₂, C(R¹)(R²), Si(R³)(R⁴), N(R⁵), B(R⁶), P(R⁷) or P(=O)(R⁸), Z¹³ and Z¹⁴ each independently represent C(R⁹), Si(R¹⁰), B, N, P or P(=O), Z¹⁵ and Z¹⁶ each independently represent C or Si, and R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹ and R¹⁰ represent the same meaning as described above),

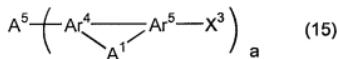
A⁴ represents a hydrogen atom, alkyl group, alkyloxy group, alkylthio group, aryl group, aryloxy group, arylthio group, arylalkyl group, arylalkyloxy group, arylalkylthio group, substituted amino group, substituted silyl group, mono-valent heterocyclic group, hetero aryloxy group,

hetero arylthio group, arylalkenyl group or arylethynyl group. In formula (9), Ar⁵ and A² are connected to mutually adjacent atoms on Ar⁴ ring and Ar⁴ and A² are connected to mutually adjacent atoms on Ar⁵ ring.

X¹⁸, X¹⁹, X²⁰, X²¹ and X²² each independently represent a halogen atom, alkylsulfonate group, arylsulfonate group, arylalkylsulfonate group, boric ester group group, -B(OH)₂, methyl monohalide group, sulfonium methyl group, phosphonium methyl group, phosphonate methyl group, cyanomethyl group, formyl group, vinyl group, hydroxyl group, alkyloxy group, acyloxy group, substituted silyloxy group, amino group or nitro group, and at least one of X¹⁸, X¹⁹ and X²⁰ in formula (9), at least one of X¹⁸, X²¹ and X²² in formula (10) and at least one of X¹⁸, X¹⁹, X²¹ and X²² in formula (11) are selected from a halogen atom, alkylsulfonate group, arylsulfonate group, arylalkylsulfonate group, boric ester group group, -B(OH)₂, methyl monohalide group, sulfonium methyl group, phosphonium methyl group, phosphonate methyl group, cyanomethyl group, formyl group and vinyl group.]

6. (withdrawn): The aromatic compound according to Claim 5, wherein all of X¹⁸, X¹⁹ and X²⁰ in formula (9), all of X¹⁸, X²¹ and X²² in formula (10) and all of X¹⁸, X¹⁹, X²¹ and X²² in formula (11) represent a halogen atom, alkylsulfonate group, arylsulfonate group, arylalkylsulfonate group, boric ester group group, -B(OH)₂, methyl monohalide group, sulfonium methyl group, phosphonium methyl group, phosphonate methyl group, cyanomethyl group, formyl group or vinyl group.

7. (withdrawn): An aromatic compound of the following formula (15):



(wherein, Ar⁴, Ar⁵, A¹ and X³ represent the same meaning as described above. A⁵ represents a boron atom, aluminum atom, gallium atom, silicon atom, germanium atom, nitrogen atom, phosphorus atom, arsenic atom, a-valent aromatic hydrocarbon group, a-valent heterocyclic group or a-valent group having a metal complex structure. a represents 3 or 4. A plurality of Ar⁴s, Ar⁵s, A¹s and X¹⁰s may be mutually the same or different.)

8. (new): The aromatic compound according to Claim 3, wherein A¹ represents O-C(=O), O-C(R¹)(R²), N(R⁵)-C(=O), or N=C(R⁹).
9. (new): The aromatic compound according to Claim 3, wherein A¹ represents O-C(R¹)(R²).